

History

The process of addressing the long-term care workforce in Arizona began at the legislature in 2001 and led to the establishment of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Long-Term Care, which issued its report and recommendations in 2003. In response, Governor Napolitano appointed the Citizens Workgroup on the Long-Term Care Workforce, which submitted its report *Will Anyone Care?* in April 2005 with ten recommendations on Arizona's direct care workforce. Upon completion of the report, the work of implementing the recommendations was transitioned to the Interagency Council on Long-Term Care.

One recommendation of the Citizens Workgroup suggested the development of a standardized and uniform training curriculum for direct care professionals. A course, comprising training on basic caregiving and the elderly / physical disabilities, was offered for college credit in the summer of 2005 to 15 direct care workers, sponsored by ABIL, Comfort Keepers, and the Foundation for Senior Living. Subsequently, the course and specific competencies were approved by the curriculum committee of Phoenix College. The Citizens Workgroup's subcommittee on education was transformed into the Core Curriculum and Expansion Committee and began its work in March 2006 to continue implementation of the training program. The teaching materials for the core competencies of Principles of Caregiving and the Elderly/Physical Disabilities module were revised, and a new module on Developmental Disabilities was approved. Work on the Alzheimer's/ Dementia module is nearly complete.

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 was made available through ADES for the further development of the project. \$70,000 was directed to the Area of Agency on Aging, Region One, and \$30,000 to the Pima Council on Aging for development of materials, delivery of classes, and evaluation of the project. The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities contributed an additional \$15,000 specifically for the construction of the developmental disabilities module.